

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for clustering icons into a virtual pile, comprising:
  - a) identifying a first icon to represent the said virtual pile;
  - b) selecting another icon to be placed onto said virtual pile;
  - c) indicating that said selected icon is to be added to said virtual pile;
  - d) modifying said first icon at least once to indicate a pile thereunder;  
and
  - e) repeating (b-d) until done.
2. A method as in **claim 1**, further comprising subsequent icons disappearing at least in part from view upon placement on said pile.
3. A method as in **claim 1**, further comprising subsequent icons changing in appearance to represent being part of said virtual pile upon placement on said pile.
4. A method as in **claim 1**, upon release of subsequent icons onto said pile, further indicating that another icon was successfully added thereto.
5. A method as in **claim 4**, wherein said further indication that another icon was successfully added thereto, playing at least one sound.
6. A method as in **claim 4**, wherein said further indication that another icon was successfully added thereto, displaying at least one graphic.
7. A method as in **claim 1**, upon identification of said first icon, selecting said first icon as a start of the virtual pile.
8. A method as in **claim 7**, upon selection of said first icon as the start of the virtual pile, further modifying said first icon so as to indicate that it now represents a virtual pile.

9. A method as in **claim 8**, wherein said further modifying of said first icon is such that it indicates that it now represents a single element pile.
10. A method as in **claim 1**, the modification of said first icon further comprising providing a number representative of the total elements piled thereunder.
11. A method as in **claim 1**, the modification of said first icon further comprising tagging said first icon with miniature renditions of at least one of the elements piled thereunder.
12. A method as in **claim 1**, the modification of said first icon further comprising providing a number representative of the total elements piled thereunder.
13. A method as in **claim 1**, the modification of said first icon further comprising providing information as to the type of elements piled thereunder.
14. A method as in **claim 1**, wherein modification of said first icon further comprises changing said first icon's label.
15. A method as in **claim 14**, wherein changing of said first icon's label comprises adding at least one character thereto or subtracting at least one character therefrom.
16. A method as in **claim 1**, wherein modification of said first icon further comprises associating a graphic therewith for at least one element piled thereunder.

17. A method as in **claim 16**, wherein said associated graphics vary as to distinguish elements piled thereunder.
18. A method as in **claim 17**, wherein said associated graphics comprise line segments which vary in at least one of length, thickness, alignment, color, or pattern.
19. A method as in **claim 18**, further displaying balloon boxes providing additional information as to the elements in the pile.
20. A method as in **claim 19**, further identifying documents thereunder.
21. A method as in **claim 1**, on a mouse passing over or being placed on or in proximity to said pile, further initiating a mouse-over event.
22. A method as in **claim 21**, on said mouse-over event, further providing information regarding the virtual pile.
23. A method as in **claim 21**, on said mouse-over event, further providing information regarding at least one element in the pile.
24. A method as in **claim 21**, on said mouse-over event, further opening at least one element in the pile.
25. A method as in **claim 21**, on said mouse-over event further initiating at least one of: text, sound, images, sequences, or display

26. A method as in **claim 1**, wherein said indicating that a selected icon is to be added comprises
  - a) dragging said selected icon into close proximity of said virtual pile; and
  - b) releasing said selected icon onto said virtual pile.
27. A method for enabling the removal of icons from a virtual pile comprising:
  - a) identifying a virtual pile;
  - b) selecting at least one element in said pile;
  - c) providing an icon for said selected element;
  - d) modifying said virtual pile to indicate the removal of the element.
28. A method as in **claim 27**, wherein said providing an icon for said selected element comprises restoring the original iconic representation thereof.
29. A method as in **claim 27**, wherein said providing an icon for said selected element comprises creating a new iconic representation therefor.
30. A method as in **claim 27**, wherein the removal of elements from said pile is done by a drag-and-drop action.
31. A method as in **claim 27**, upon removal of all elements previously added to the pile, further restoring the original representation of said first icon.
32. A method as in **claim 27**, wherein the removal of elements from said pile is done responsive to a mouse-over event.
33. A method as in **claim 32**, on said mouse-over event further providing an exploded view of all elements in the pile.

34. A method as in **claim 32**, on said mouse-over event removing all elements from the pile.
35. A method as in **claim 34**, upon removal of elements from the pile, further restoring at least one removed element's original iconic representation.
36. A method as in **claim 32**, upon removal of elements from the pile, creating a new iconic representation for at least one removed element.
37. A method as in **claim 27**, said removal being responsive to a computer system initiated event.
38. A method as in **claim 27** said removal being responsive to a network initiated event.
39. The method as in **claim 27**, wherein the modifying of said virtual pile includes the modification of its icon.
40. The method as in **claim 27**, wherein the selecting of said virtual pile is done by selection of its icon with a pointing device.
41. The method as in **claim 27**, wherein the selecting of an element contained within said virtual pile is done by selecting the element indicated by a mouse-over event.
42. The method as in **claim 27**, wherein the icon created for said selected element matches the icon the element had prior to being added to the virtual pile.
43. The method as in **claim 27**, wherein the modification of the virtual pile includes no longer indicating the element as a member of the pile.

44. A method as in **claim 27**, said removal initiating a network event.
45. A method as in **claim 27**, said removal initiating an email event.
46. A method as in **claim 27**, said removal initiating a computer event.